

In re RAGER
10/630,933
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A vehicle frame assembly, comprising:

a first vertical pillar member,

a first longitudinal roof rail member, said roof rail member and said pillar member meet to form an intersection, and

a cross member including a transition flange providing rounded corners at said intersection to receive and enhance a door seal feature of a vehicle frame assembly,

wherein said transition flange extends through a continuous surface from said cross member across one of a top side and a bottom side of said roof rail member to said pillar member, and wherein said transition flange is a separately formed bracket member attached to said cross member.

2. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ vehicle frame assembly ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a first vertical pillar member,

a first longitudinal roof rail member, said roof rail member and said pillar member meet to form an intersection, and

a cross member including a transition flange providing rounded corners at said intersection to receive and enhance a door seal feature of a vehicle frame assembly,

wherein said transition flange extends through a continuous surface from said cross member across one of a top side and a bottom side of said roof rail member to said pillar member, and

wherein said transition flange is integrally and homogeneously formed with said cross member as a unitary body.

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3. (canceled)

4. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 3, wherein said separately formed bracket member is a stamped cross member bracket.

5. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said transition flange wraps at least partly around the longitudinal roof rail member.

6. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cross member is formed by stamping.

7. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cross member is formed by a hydroforming process

8. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said transition flange at least partly overlies said first pillar member and said first roof rail member.

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9. (currently amended) A The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, comprising:

a first vertical pillar member,

a first longitudinal roof rail member, said roof rail member and said pillar member meet to form an intersection, and

a cross member including a transition flange providing rounded corners at said intersection to receive and enhance a door seal feature of a vehicle frame assembly,

wherein said transition flange extends through a continuous surface from said cross member across one of a top side and a bottom side of said roof rail member to said pillar member, and

wherein said transition flange wraps above said top side of said roof rail member.

10. (previously presented) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said transition flange wraps below said bottom side of said roof rail member.

11. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said transition flange extends in front of said pillar member.

12. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said transition flange extends behind said pillar member.

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13. (original) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said transition flange provides a relatively flat surface blending into the door seal feature thus creating a smooth transition between the first pillar member and the first roof rail member.

14. (previously presented) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cross member extends between said first pillar member and a second pillar member.

15. (previously presented) The vehicle frame assembly according to claim 1, wherein said cross member extends between said first roof rail member and a second roof rail member.